

Message Text

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TAGS: OEXC, MY

SUBJECT: FY-74 IV PROGRAM: OSMAN BIN AROFF AND HAJI YUSOF

BIN ABDULLAH RAWA

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 2373, JUNE 30, 1972

1. POST RECOMMENDS PARTIAL GRANTS OR FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE BE PROVIDED OSMAN, KEDAH STATE YOUTH/POLITICAL LEADER (APPROVED FY-73 IV PROGRAM BUT UNABLE TO ACCEPT), AND YUSOF, NEW DEPUTY MINISTER PRIMARY INDUSTRY, WHO HAVE DEPARTED FOR NEW YORK AS MEMBERS MALAYSIAN DELEGATION UNGA. DUE TO SHORT INTERVAL BETWEEN GOM ANNOUNCEMENT OF DELEGATION AND ITS DEPARTURE, POST DID NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE PROGRAM WITH OSMAN OR YUSOF.

2. BIODATA AS FOLLOWS: A. FOR OSMAN BIN AROFF: AGE: THIRTY; BORN KEDAH STATE; MARRIED WITH THREE CHILDREN. ACADEMIC TRAINING AT MALAY NATIONAL SCHOOL AND SULTAN ABDUL HAMID COLLEGE, KEDAH. OSMAN IS UP-AND-COMING POLITICAL IN KEDAH AND IS MEMBER OF STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EQUIVALENT TO STATE CABINET) AND IMPORTANT STATE GOVT. COMMITTEES. HE ALSO CHAIRMAN OF STATE YOUTH COUNCIL AND PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN BOTH STATE AND NATIONAL ELVEL YOUTH PROGRAMS. HE WAS MEMBER OF STATE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION THAT VISITED INDONESIA EARLIER THIS YEAR. OSMAN IS HIGHLY ARTICULATE, SOPHISTICATED AND HAS EXCELLENT COMMAND OF ENGLISH; IN ALL, HE CERTAINLY DESTINED MOVE INTO TOP POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN KEDAH AND LIKELY IN FUTURE BE INFLUENTIAL ON NATIONAL SCENE.

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B. HAJI YUSOF BIN ABDULLAH RAWA: BORN 1922 IN PENANG, YUSOF RECEIVED TRADITIONAL MOSLEM EDUCATION BUT WAS SENT ABROAD TO MECCA AND CAIRO FOR HIGHER STUDIES; RECEIVED DIPLOMA FROM AL-FALAH COLLEGE, MECCA. HAS ENGAGED IN NUMEROUS BUSINESS ACTIVITIES; ENTERED POLITICS IN 1959, JOINING PAN-MALAY ISLAMIC PARTY; DEFEATED UMNO CANDIDATE DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMED FOR KEDAH PARLIAMENTARY SEAT IN UPSET IN 1969 GENERAL ELECTIONS; HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN INNER COUNCILS OF PMIP AND IS REGARDED AS INTELLECTUAL AND ELDER STATESMAN. HE WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY MINISTER OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES IN AUGUST 73 CABINET SHAKE-UP. ALTHOUGH A STAUNCH MOSLEM, YUSOF RANKS AS A MODERATE HAD BEEN CRITICAL OF ARAB EXTREMISM AS WELL AS MALAY CHAUVINISM IN MALAYSIA. HE IS GOOD EMBASSY CONTACT ON PMIP AND LOCAL PENANG/KEDAH POLITICAL AFFAIRS; HE IS IN GOOD POSITION TO INFLUENCE TRADITIONALIST/ POLITICIANS IN PMIP.

3. POST URGES CONSIDERATION OF ABBREVIATED IV GRANTS FOR PERHAPS TWO WEEKS EITHER DURING OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING UNGA; ALTERNATIVELY, DEPT. MAY WISH CONSIDER OFFER OF FACILITATIVE SERVICES IF FUNDS NOT AVAILABLE. SUGGESTED PROGRAM WOULD INCLUDE VISIT TO WASHINGTON, BRIEFINGS ON CONGRESS AND US GOVT. OPERATIONS, FAMILIARIZATION WITH US POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM AND VISIT TO NATIONAL MOSQUE. VISIT MIGHT ALSO TAKE IN POINTS OF INTEREST CLOSE TO NEW YORK/WASHINGTON SUCH AS WILLIAMSBURG, SMALL OR MEDIUM SIZE COLLEGE CAMPUS, ETC.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT. COMMENTS ON FEASIBILITY ABBREVIATED PROGRAMS FOR OSMAN AND HAJI YUSOF, TOGETHER WITH INDICATION AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS IN ADDITION REGULAR EMBASSY FY 74 IVP. POST BELIEVES PRESENCE THESE LEADERS IN NEW YORK IS TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY AND URGES THAT DEPT. CONSIDER WAYS AND MEANS OF FORMULATING PROGRAMS OR, AT MINIMUM, OFFERING FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE ALONG LINES PROPOSED PARA 3 ABOVE.

5. NAMECHECKS SATISFACTORY.
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